

The Westkirk Presbyterian Church

Shepherd

Volume 27 No.2 February 2012

Reading God's Word

Each year during Advent, the Mudlaff family spends family worship time doing The Advent Event, a month long walk through the Bible. As we make our way through the story of redemption, each day we read a passage from Scripture and a summary of a particular event. We learn a hand motion and saying that helps us remember that day's message. Then the fun begins as we start over from day 1 and make our way all the way through The Advent Event until we do the motion and say the phrase that corresponds to that day's lesson. When it's done, we say our prayers before one of the boys hangs a hand colored ornament for that day on a string that we've hung at the top of one of the thresholds in our kitchen.

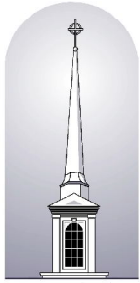
All about December 21, the lesson is on the Prophets who wrote about the coming Messiah and we are reminded that in their writings, as contained in the Bible, are the very words of God. One hand is held out like a tablet and the other pretends to write as we say together, 'writing God's Word.' God's Word is something we easily take for granted. We say we believe in it. We know that it tells this redemptive story and contains the 'words of life.' But research shows that the difference between what we believe and what we do about it is vast and growing. Over the last several years, Gallup has polled Americans several times about the Bible and the results are discouraging. Fewer Americans regard the Bible as authoritative, biblical literacy (knowing what it says) is down, only 38% read it once a week or more, and a whopping 41% say they rarely or never read the Bible. (Search for yourself at *Gallup.com*) We're not about 'writing God's Word,' but we can be about reading God's Word.

Most of the questions I receive from members and others I know looking for guidance are questions related to what's in the Bible or how to go about discovering God's will in this circumstance or another. In Pastor Paul's New Year's Day sermon, he talked about how we can discern God's will and a nice summary article appears in this issue of *The Shepherd*. But the bottom line is this, if we are not reading God's Word, we are not learning about God. If we are not learning about him, we don't know him very well. And if we don't know him, we won't know his will for our lives. Let's face it, that's how we know anyone with whom we have relationship – we spend time together.

I have recently begun reading the Bible with a couple of friends here at Westkirk. Are you reading the Bible yourself or with others? If we are to live our lives daily for the glory of God, we need to do better than talk with one another about what we think the Bible says. Even worse, we need to stop claiming we believe in God, but living as if He's not there. A few great books your HouseKirk might want to read together that have been meaningful to me on this topic are: *Crazy Love*, by Francis Chan; *Radical*, by David Platt; and *The Christian Atheist*, by Craig Groeschel. Let's grow deeper in our knowledge and love of God together.

Pastor Michael

^{ESV} Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



Westkirk
Presbyterian
Church

The Session

Moderator - Michael Mudlaff

Class of 2011

Chad Carlson
John Donaldson
Trent Vis

Class of 2012

Russ Harrison
Kevin Heer
Marsha Raisch
Kirk Yentes

Class of 2013

Mark Bakker
Rick Eyerly
Dan Marvin

Clerk of Session - Robin Riggins

Treasurer - Chris Brown

Assistant Treasurer - Aaron Pieper

Commission Deacons

Christian Education - Sandy Tuinstra, 2011

Fellowship - Dawn Vis, 2012

House and Grounds - Hugh Sheppard, 2011

Missions - Darren Georgeff, 2012

Prayer - Jack Wilson, 2012

Stewardship - Mark Stadtlander, 2011

Worship - Chuck Heitbrink, 2011

Parish Deacons

Class of 2011

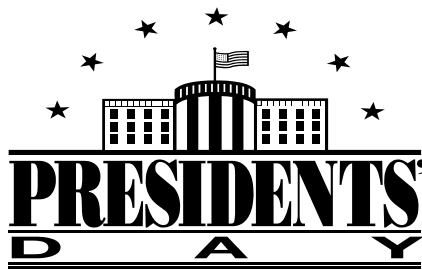
Barb Asman
Regi Donaldson
Brad Miller
Lois Swartz
Donna Vorm

Class of 2012

Peggy Brady
Kay Cunitz
Dianne Glanzer
Beryl Irvine
Sue Olson
Paul Meinen
Myra Verros



- 1 *Nathan Hoepker
 - 2 Paul Olson
 - 3 *Alec Sheppard
 - 5 Pat Gorman
 - 5 Samona Yentes
 - 6 *Anastasia Admussen
 - 7 Donald Dory
 - 10 Tracey Willcox
 - 11 Lou Heitbrink
 - 12 *Nathanael Mudlaff
 - 13 Vicki Bone
 - 14 +Becky Schuster
 - 15 Ellen Streeter
 - 16 Audrene Hansen
 - 18 +Peter Lucaciu
 - 18 *Shyanne Soper
 - 22 Vera Bakker
 - 22 *Bryce Sonnichsen
 - 25 *Benjamin Boyd
 - 25 David Liljedahl
 - 26 *Samuel Kinney
 - 26 Valerie Wilson
 - 28 Gary Robinson
- *Youth member
+ Missionary



Articles and Announcements

If you have articles that you would like to include in the *Weekly* or the *Shepherd*, we have a new e-mail address: westkirkpublications@westkirk.org. Please remember these deadlines: Wednesday noon for the *Weekly*, and the 15th of the month prior to publication date for the *Shepherd*.



- 4 Le & Helen Main
- 14 Steve & Dottie Monroe
- 19 Kurt & Gloria Huyser
- 22 Ron & Darlene Reighard

Condolences

Our prayers go out to the family of **William R. Raisch**, who passed away December 30. Bill was a charter member of Westkirk and served as an Elder and chairman of the Building Committee. Services were held at Westkirk, January 5. Son Bill and his wife Marsha are also members of Westkirk.

Our sympathies to the family of **Hazel Markovetz**, a Westkirk member who passed away January 8. According to her wishes, no services were held.

Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting of the Congregation of Westkirk Presbyterian Church, held January 29, occurred after the deadline for this issue. Therefore the meeting will be reviewed in the next *Shepherd*. Please check the March issue for a complete report. Copies of the annual report will be available at the Welcome Center after the meeting.

Stewardship Report

Thank you for your faithful stewardship throughout the year 2011. We ended our year in a positive cash position with ingathering greater than expenditures.

December saw some significant annual expenses come in, but we also had some large onetime ingathering gifts that help offset those expenditures.

The year-end numbers are listed below and we look forward to reporting at the annual congregational meeting on the 29th of January, and answering any questions that you may want to address.

	Current year	Last year
Ingathering	\$ 483,591.74	461,914.32
Expenses	475,303.65	457,656.46
Difference	8,288.09	4,257.86

... *Mark Stadtlander,*
Stewardship Commission Deacon

Dorcas Circle

Please be our Valentine: Dorcas Circle meets February 9, at 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room. The lesson, "The Seal of the Living God," will be given by Gail De Graaf and the hostesses are Karen Admussen and Helen Main. Please join us and bring a friend with you.

... *Marilyn Long, Moderator*

Senior Adult Ministries

In January we had a wonderful Senior Adult Luncheon at which we ate that delicious Westkirk Beef Stew with biscuits, pie and ice cream. Later we played table games. We also had borrowed a Wii game console on which we played virtual bowling in the Hospitality Room.

In February the Senior Adult Luncheon will feature Hot Roast Beef Sandwiches as the entrée. We are asking everyone who comes to bring with them a memento or something from years past that has a special meaning which we will share with the group. If your item is too big to carry, bring a photo of it. We will meet on the second Tuesday, February 14 at noon. The signup sheet will be in the Hospitality Room and the deadline will be Sunday, February 12.

We are anticipating a Senior Adult Trip on the fourth Thursday, February 23, but as yet the details have not been set. Watch in *The Weekly* for more information.



New Notification System for Congregational Communication

Thanks to contributions given to our Memorial Fund, Westkirk now has a new system for passing along information or notifying you about cancellations or emergencies. This system will allow us to conveniently contact you if we should call off services for weather or inform you about a funeral during the week.

Communication options include email, a recorded phone message or voicemail, and text messages. For your convenience, messages are only sent between 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. However, in an emergency (like a Sunday morning service cancellation), we may send out the message earlier.

In order for us to reach you most effectively, we need to know the best way to reach you. Please go to the Hospitality Room to check off or verify your current contact information. The notification system works most efficiently with email or texting so we need to keep your contact information up to date. If you prefer texting, please provide us with your cell phone number, an email address and your text message provider (like Verizon, U.S. Cellular, etc.)

We plan to send out an "all church" test message within a few weeks, (maybe before you read this). If you do not want to be included in this service, please send an email to Pastor Paul Nelson at paulnelson@westkirk.org or leave him a message at the church office at 253-0330.

DMARC Food Pantry Collection

Sunday, February 19

The DMARC (Des Moines Area Religious Council) Food Pantry has been forced to cut back on the amount of food items that can be supplied to each of the distribution centers in the greater Des Moines area due to increased demand and decreased donations. Please prayerfully consider giving a generous donation to our quarterly DMARC Food Pantry collection on February 19.

The most economical way to contribute is with a monetary donation because the Food Pantry can purchase items at reduced prices and buy up to six times as much food as could be donated at retail cost. (Please make your check payable to Westkirk and indicate Food Pantry on the memo line. Place your check in the Sunday offering.)

For those who prefer to donate food items, the Parish Deacons will be handing out grocery sacks at the center doors of the sanctuary after the worship service on February 5 and 12. Please refer to the list on the sack which indicates the specific items that are needed.

... Dianne Glanzer, Parish Deacon

“Souper” Bowl

You know what’s better than the Super Bowl? Well, it’s the “Souper Bowl”! I know, I know, Hope Ministries coined the phrase first, but you have to admit, it is catchy. So come join the Fellowship Commission on Sunday, February 19 after church for a soup potluck luncheon. If your last name begins with S – Z, we would like you to bring a crockpot of your favorite soup. For last names beginning A – H, you can bring rolls or bread, and for last name letters I – R, you can bring dessert. Mark your calendars and plan for an afternoon of great food and fellowship. We hope to see you then!



February 22

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
with Holy Communion

Thank You Notes

A sincere thank-you to Pastor Paul for the lovely ceremony and thoughtful, meaningful message at the marriage of John Irvine and Debra Thomas at beautiful Westkirk on December 30th.

Beryl Irvine and family

Thank you very much for the flowers sent for my mother’s funeral. They were a lovely arrangement in a teacup and we were able to enjoy them for several days. My mother’s favorite flowers were African violets so I plan to plant some in the teacup in her memory.

We truly appreciate all the support we have received from everyone at Westkirk during this time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Orend and John Papp

On behalf of my father, William Raymond Raisch, and his family and friends, Marsha and I would like to thank Westkirk, its staff and volunteers for the very special funeral and graveside services and luncheon provided for family and friends. We would also like to extend our gratitude to all those who sent cards of sympathy, made memorial contributions on behalf of my father, attended visitation and funeral services, or provided comfort and prayers at our time of need. You eased our pain at a time of mourning and helped us joyfully celebrate Dad’s passing to be with our Lord and Savior. Dad loved his Westkirk Church family. The Christian love and care shown by all of you in return was and is very special to all of us. A special thanks to Pastor Michael for the beautiful service, working with the family and his kind and meaningful words, to Pastor Paul for the scripture verses and reading, to Chuck Heitbrink and Diane Glanzer for the music and to Miss Elaine Elizabeth Hurst for coordinating the services. For all that you did our family will be eternally grateful.

Thanks again,

Bill & Marsha Raisch

To those I know and those I’m hoping to meet, Thank you for the sermon tapes, bulletins, cards, and remembering me.

Always,

Marj Wildrick

Discipleship in Turkey and Greece

Join Pastor Michael on a tour of Turkey and Greece as we Walk in the Footsteps of Paul in October of 2012

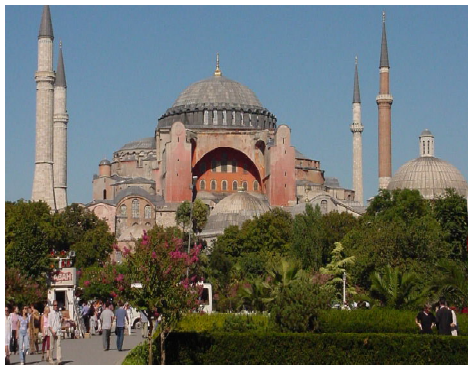
You've probably read or heard by now that Westkirk will be celebrating its 25th anniversary, in part with a study tour to Turkey and Greece in October of this year. How does this qualify as discipleship? Let me begin by sharing the value to you.

As you tour the lands of Paul's missionary journeys, you cannot help but be moved to follow Christ. You discover the connection of God's mission and purpose that runs throughout the entire Bible and it comes alive as you see and understand Scripture with new eyes.

Travelling to the Bible lands helps you discover the value and significance of the Church. You realize that church is not a building, but a community of people, made of different cultures and backgrounds, that love God and love the world around them. You begin to see the value of commitment to the local church to accomplish God's mission of redemption. Visiting Turkey and Greece will help you see the diversity that exists in the church. Unity in the Body is strengthened as people often come away with a deeper appreciation for the essential, non-negotiable truths of our faith.

Something special happens when people share common experiences, especially when these experiences are spiritually intense. As you encounter spiritual renewal together studying the Bible in bible lands, a bond is created with the others on the trip that are unexpected. In our busy world, it is hard to get away and reflect on the important issues in life. As we observe critical points in Paul's ministry life, you are given opportunity to reflect on your own lives, your frustrations, your wounds, your relationship with God and your purpose and value to Him. On tour, God will transform your heart to be more Christ-like as you live to bless and serve others.

If you are considering the trip, take a few steps of preparation. Check the *Weekly* for the date and time of an upcoming special informational meeting. Total cost for the trip is \$3473.50 per person with double occupancy. This includes travel, taxes, visa, breakfast and dinner daily, and gratuities. Details (including the fine print and the cost of the optional Rome extension) are available on the program brochure and registration form available in the Hospitality Room. A full deposit of \$500 is required at registration. Since other church groups will also be going at this time, there is no minimum number of registrants from Westkirk required.



From the Worship Commission

Advent Decorations

The afternoon of Sunday, January 1 was set aside by the Altar Guild to remove the Advent decorations at Westkirk. The "extra hands" who helped with this project were so greatly appreciated, for their help shortened the time required. This is a great way to get acquainted with members of Westkirk.

Thanks Lee and Melinda Turnbull, Myra Verros and her grandson, Jackson, Frank and Lois Swartz, Cheryl Harrington, and Flora Boeckemeier who helped remove the decorations and trees, pack up the decorations in the appropriate totes and then take the totes and trees to the basement.

The strong winds on Sunday prevented the removal of the large wreath above Westkirk's main entrance. Thanks to the House and Grounds Commission who removed the wreath and stored it.

Poinsettias

This year orders were received for 37 poinsettias to help decorate our sanctuary for Advent. After the Christmas Day service, sixteen plants were given to Westkirk shut-ins. Thanks Myra Verros, Donna Vorm, Chad Carlson, Dianne Glanzer and Kay Cunitz who helped deliver the plants to the shut-ins. It is so inspiring to visit our shut-ins and share the poinsettia plant with each one of them during the Christmas season.

Thank you,

Audrene Hansen,
Altar Guild/Worship Commission



We serve in the new way of the Spirit. – Romans 7: 6

In France, where **Gary and Kate De Graaf** labor for the Lord, only 1% of the population is considered evangelical Christian. This means non-believers do not often come into contact with a follower of Jesus. Gary asks that we pray this 1% will serve God out of love and obedience; that they will take action and take their message outside the church doors. The French Christians need encouragement and others who model obedience. Gary asks that we also pray: for Tonya, Eddy, Rachel, Nicolas, and Molly and their spiritual training as they prepare to lead student ministry in other locations; that God will meet the financial needs of Gary, Kate and Lucie which continues to rise but only

slightly; for the pastors of the evangelical churches in France to resist having the sole focus of running the business of a church and not leading people to obey God's command to share Christ. Praise God that Kate's parents could make the trip from England to Des Moines last October to visit for a while.

Dave Eggert (Cru) recently returned from another trip to Turkey where he attended important meetings with Cru's (Campus Crusade) Global Leadership Team and other leaders. It was a valuable time for Dave as he learned more about his new position. Afterward, there was a tour to 4 of the 7 churches described in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3. It was a good opportunity to build relationships with new colleagues. The last two days in the country, Dave took a 5-hour bus ride to the city of Eskisehir to visit 3 Turkish professors he and Karen had met when they were at Iowa State. It was great to see old friends again. Please continue to pray for Murat, Isil and Ertugrul as they are very open to discussing the Gospel. Dave is traveling to Turkey again in January.

From **Brian and Heather Hanneman** at Colorado University (Navigators):

“Our prayer for you would be that you would know and experience God and his goodness in 2012. On the college campus there are many things that are calling college students to “taste and see.” Here is a list of key students that Heather and I are investing in and I would like to ask you to pray Psalm 34:8 for them – *‘Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.’* “

Lindsay (senior English Education major)

Tanya (senior Speech Pathology major)

Reese (junior, Mechanical Engineer major)

Austin (junior, Mechanical Engineer)

Alex (senior, History major, planning on International missions upon graduating)

Kyle (senior, Physics)

Blake (freshman, History Education and Biology)

Brian (sophomore, Psychology, co-leads the freshmen Bible study with me)

Jonathon and Becky Schuster serving at the Irish Bible Institute (IBI) in Dublin, Ireland, report on the institute's financial struggles. IBI has learned that “the company who leased two thirds of the space IBI ‘owns’ in their current building backed out of their rental agreement and Irish laws have left IBI unable to do anything about it. Unfortunately, that was just the beginning of the bad news. Due to the Irish government's dire financial situation they are looking for loopholes, yes, loopholes in their own laws in order to cut benefits and raise taxes everywhere they can. IBI became a loophole and have been informed they need to pay additional taxes - the figure IBI received is astronomical. You will undoubtedly be hearing more from us on this issue.” Please pray for:

IBI's financial needs; IBI's search for a new accrediting body - a huge project; the Schuster's 14-year old son, Caleb, as he shares his faith at school. Praise God that Jonathon's recent speaking engagements in December went very well.

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Ward Schmeidel prayed in the New Year with 1500 Upper Midwest college students gathered for the annual four-day Twin Cities Xperience (TCX) conference. The students spent their time worshipping, studying God's word, attending equipping and life skill seminars, and outreach with inner city churches to deliver food and share the gospel. During the outreach, 68 people indicated placing their faith in Christ. The students were challenged to consider vocational missions. Pray that students new in the faith will commit to being discipled so their faith can mature.

Please pray for **Pastor Brandon** and Mission Commission Deacon, **Darren Georgeff**, as they travel to Crown Point, New Mexico, in early February to explore partnering opportunities with a Navajo church there. They will be meeting with Pastor Norman Chee and his wife, Deb, and other church members. Pray for safe travel and Spirit-led discussion.

Please remember to lift up in prayer the mission strategy team as they continue to meet each month. The group continues to study a book on missions together and share ideas that will refine our missions program.

If you desire to receive the complete newsletters from our missionaries, please contact Darren Georgeff to receive e-mail copies: darrengeorgeff@gmail.com.

Mission Commission: Ben Bishop, Terrie Bishop, Gail De Graaf, Darren Georgeff, Lois Lundgren-Stecker, Dan Marvin.

How Do You Make Your Decisions?

By Pastor Paul Nelson

How do you make your decisions? What do you do when you suspect that God is “nudging” you in a certain direction? How can you be sure it is God who is doing the “nudging?” The only sure way to recognize His voice is to be very familiar with Him. The way to do that is by immersing yourself in the Bible. Today, the Bible is the sure and only true source of God's Word. Hebrews chapter one reminds us that even though God spoke through people in the Old Testament and New Testament times, today He speaks to us through His Son, Jesus. That means we need to read, study, listen to the Bible on a regular basis.

The Bible will help us know which things are matters of righteousness, which things are matters of good judgment and which things are trivialities. If a decision is a matter of righteousness, the decision is easy; just do what is right - be honest, be loving, obey God. Trivialities are neither here nor there - what color shirt to wear, whether to drink orange or apple juice. Make these decisions quickly and with minimal effort. Matters of good judgment are the ones that often give us problems - who to marry, which job offer to take. Wisdom will help us, either from our experience or others. Judgment is just that - an opinion, so as long as you are only considering biblical options, there may not be a right or wrong answer.

So if you do have a question about what God wants you do to, first and foremost—read the Bible. Read it every day. Meditate on it. Study it. Listen to how it is applied in Sunday school, at WOW and from Westkirk's pulpit. Then be obedient to God's Word in your daily decisions. Let God's Word interpret the circumstances of your life.

Want to take this further? Pastor Michael suggests you or your HouseKirk take a season to study “Where to, Lord?” six sessions on guidance for small groups and individuals.

I Believe in the HOLY SPIRIT

An Acrostic on the verses from the ESV Bible

According to the Spirit we must walk, live, “Abba Father” we cry as
ADOPTED sons by Spirit (Romans 8)
BORN of the Spirit (John 3), BAPTIZED with the Holy Spirit (Matthew
3)
COMFORTER, COUNSELOR, Clothed by the Spirit (I
Chronicles 12:18)
DIVINE, DESCENDING like a Dove on Christ at baptism (Matthew
3:16-17)
EMPOWERED by the Spirit (Micah 3:8)
Filled with the Spirit, Full of the Spirit, Fullness, FRUIT of the Spirit
(Galatians 5)
GIFT, Good Spirit, God’s Spirit, not ‘ghost’, and GUARANTEE given
by God. (11 Corinthians 5:5)
HOLY SPIRIT, HE is God, Helper, Holiness
Indwells us, we are IN the Spirit
JESUS gives/sends the Spirit, JOY of the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
KNOWLEDGE
LOVE, LIFE, Lifter up of Ezekiel to show him God’s will
Manifestation of the Spirit, My Spirit (Genesis 6:3)
Not ghost but Spirit of God
ONE with the Father and the Son, ONE Spirit
POWER, Person, Promised, and Poured out (Joel 2, Acts 2)
QUENCH not the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
RIGHT (Acts 28:25) Rushes on particular people at specific times to do
God’s will
SANCTIFIER, SEARCHER, Spirit spoke, seals us
TRUTH, TEACHER, Testifies
UNDERSTANDING, UNITY in the Spirit
VINDICATOR (1 Timothy 3:16)
WISDOM, Witness-bearer, WALK by the Spirit
X - not unknown
YOUR Spirit (Nehemiah 9:30)
ZEAL - as with God the Father, God the Son, so with the Spirit

... Gail De Graaf

Communion Offering
this month is for the Benevolent Fund.
Please consider an additional gift.



February Is Food Drive Month

The rough economy is not only leading to more food pantry clients, it’s cutting into food pantry donations as well. Urbandale Food Pantry Director, Eileen Boggess says, “Due to a decrease in revenue and an increase in demand, DMARC has once again changed their food list. We will now be providing a three-day supply of food rather than a five-day supply of food.” DMARC and the Urbandale Food Pantry need our support now more than ever. In addition to the change in food supply, there will be less food in each bag of food. Thanks to current supply in the Urbandale location, for the next few weeks, bags will be supplemented with macaroni and cheese. When food from the central processing location runs out at the food pantry, clients will receive rice and beans and Meals from the Heartland until the shelves are re-stocked.



The most economical way to contribute is through a monetary donation. DMARC can purchase food at a lower cost than you can buy it on sale at the store. February is Westkirk’s next scheduled food drive month. Be prepared and keep checking the *Weekly* for other opportunities to give to the hungry. The UFP box in the Hospitality Room lists Westkirk’s monthly personal care item and diapers of all sizes (especially large ones) are always welcome!

Student Ministry

Dear Westkirk Family,

2012 is off to a great start! On Wednesday, January 11, we kicked off the new semester of WOW by beginning a new study titled, "James: A Field Guide." We'll be looking at the first chapter of James and discovering what it looks like to live into the faith that God has called us to through the saving work of His Son, Jesus. This series will be accented by an evening of service at Freedom for Youth on February 8. We will be serving dinner at the center as an expression of our faith. In response to God's love for us we must go out of this building into a world that desperately needs to know of Jesus!

Additionally, we had the joy of beginning this semester with a celebration! On Wednesday, January 11, we celebrated the adoption of Kylah Jo Tuinstra! Jerry and Sandy Tuinstra recently adopted Kylah, one of our wonderful junior high students. We are so excited for all of them! Congratulations, Tuinstras! Here is a picture of Sandy, Jerry, and Kylah with Kylah's cake.



What a great way to start the semester! We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in the weeks and months to come!

Here are things you can be praying for our Student Ministries here at Westkirk: That our group would be looking for ways in which we can open ourselves to newcomers. Also, pray that our students would be given opportunities to invite their friends to our programs and events. So that others might share in our joyful fellowship as young followers of Jesus Christ.

Pray for our volunteer staff. That we might joyfully and faithfully serve our students with wisdom and grace. Our volunteers are Kevin & Rachel Heer, Trent & Dawn Vis, Brad Miller, Mark DeGroot, Amy Withers, Styles Stadtlander, Kyra Stadtlander, & Abbey Mick.

Pray that our group might be encouraged and strengthened in our faith as we pursue God in learning, discussion, and worship!

Pray that God might increase our JOY as we follow Christ together!

Grace and Peace,

Brandon Mick

Never Too Old to Be Young: Thanks to all who attended and especially to the Vis family for preparing, serving, and cleaning up the meal! Everyone who came was a champion, but the following people won at their respective games:



Scrabble—Pam Brown; Yahtzee—George De Graaf; Apples to Apples—Brandon Mick; Killer Bunnies and the Qwest for the Magic Carrot—Eric Brown; Sorry—Doris Smith; Uno—Nathanael Mudlaff, Val Wilson.



Sledding at Stadtlanders'

Date: A Saturday TBD

1-5 p.m.

Cost: FREE!

All students (7th-12th Grade) are invited to bundle up, bring a sled, and come on out for an afternoon of wintry fun! We'll meet at the church and ride out together to the Stadtlanders' near Winterset. And in case you were wondering . . . Yes, there will be hot cocoa!

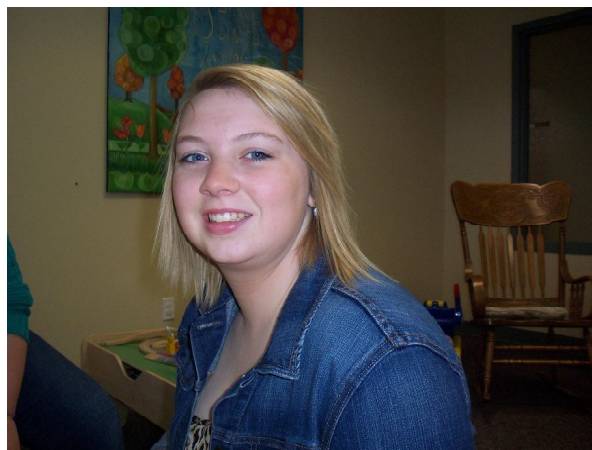
Children's Ministry

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4

This month as we anticipate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on February 22, we can focus on the richness of God's mercy toward us, and extend that same mercy to our children, spouses, family members, friends, and everyone we meet. Just as Christ prepared for his ministry, so we can in the 40 days that lead up to Easter. This season of Lent gives us an opportunity to learn more about prayer, sacrifice and showing kindness to others. Some people give up something to remind them of Christ's suffering. Some people make a change in their lives to be a better follower of Christ.

What can your family do? You can grow closer to God through prayer and the Word, which will help you understand his love, and then share that love with others!

Nursery News: Please welcome Anna Brown as our full-time nursery attendant on Sunday mornings! She is the daughter of Steve & Lynda Brown, and older sister to Molly and Matthew. Anna is a senior at Valley High School, and in her spare time works at Dairy Queen and Fareway. In the fall she plans to study in Colorado.



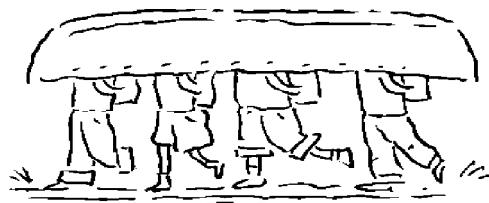
Summer Camp: It's not too early to start thinking summer! Twin Lakes is a Christian Bible camp in Marion, IA that is a fun place to get serious about God. We encourage families to give their children a week at camp and have scholarships to help defray the cost. Register at www.twinlakescc.com by April 1 to receive a reduction on the total cost. A 33% discount is available from Westkirk by using the code 12WestKirkPres (case sensitive) and additional financial aid is available from Twin Lakes if needed.

Adventure Camp: July 8-13 (grades 4-6)

Challenge Camp: July 22-27 (grades 6-9)

Impact Camp: July 29-Aug. 3 (grades 6-9)

Family Camp: July 21-23/Aug. 8-10





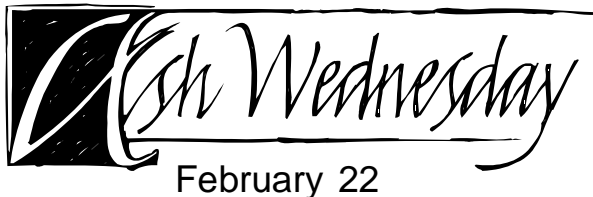
Westkirk
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The Shepherd

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